went to China and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Although the Prime Minister has been invited to visit China, and the invitation has been accepted in principal no dates have been fixed as yet.

(b) There has been an improvement in bilateral relations with China in the areas of culture, science and technology and trade since the official level dialogue between India and China began in 1981. Both India and China have stressed the need to maintain peace and tranquility on the border.

(c) 27 Chinese delegations visited India and 26 Indian delegations visited China during the period January 1987 to the present. These visits covered the following fields: Official-level discussions on bilateral relations, trade, textile, machinery, housing construction, radio and television, telecommunications high earth rock dams, laser technology, plasma physics, instrumentation, education, wasteland development mineral resources, publishing, electronics, agricultural development, the performing arts, adult and non formal education, childhood disability programmes and religion and philosophy.

Indo-US relations

1056. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-U.S. relations of late show signs of deterioration; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

XMP-14 Super Computer

1057. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the XMP-14 Super Computer has since been made available with India and installed;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are certain conditions attached with the sale of it by U.S.A.; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Commercial negotiations with the manufacturer are taking place.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) These conditions relate essentially to the security and end-use of the Super Computer.

Broadcast of "Panorama" by B.B.C.

1058. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that B.B.C. London has recently broadcast a programme 'Panorama' in which the activities of extremists in Punjab were represented to defame this country; and

(b) whether the Indian High Commissioner has lodged a protest with the B.B.C. authorities for the BBC's concocted stories about Punjab and whether the B.B.C. is eulogising the terrorists subversive activities in London?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The "Panorama" programme telecast on 18th January was a deliberately biased portrayal

of India's achievements and policies. The programme included visuals showing some young boys in the Golden Temple with weapons and interviwes with some extremists.

(b) A strong protest was lodged with the B.B.C. The B.B.C. indicated that they were themselves not adequately satisfied with the programme.

Transfer policy for judges

1059. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts of the Chief Justices of High Courts in the country are filled by persons from other States;

(b) the number of the judges in each of the different High Courts which are from other states;

(c) to what extent the principle laid down by Government for posting of the judges from other States has been attained; and

(d) the reasons, if any, for not fulfilling the guidelines in the matter of transfer of judges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Government have accepted the policy of having 1/3rd of Judges from outside in each High Court and to implement this decision by transfer as well as by initial appointment. Beginning in this direction has been made by adopting the policy of having Chief Justices in the High Courts from outside. Transfer and appointments of Chief Justices are being made pursuant to this policy, since January, 1983.

So far, appointment/transfer of 26 Chief Justices to outside High Courts have been made. Due to retirement etc. only 12 High Courts out of 18 are having Chief Justices from outside as on 1-3-1988.

5 initial appointments of puisne Judges in the High Courts of Delhi (1), Patna (2), Sikkim (1) and Jammu & Kashmir (1) have so far been made from outside. Transfer of 3 puisne Judges, one each to the High Courts of Allahabad, Calcutta and Madhya Pradesh have been made from outside.

Withdrawal of IPKF from Sri Lanka

1060. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by Shri Athulathmudali to the effect that IPKF will be withdrawn from Sri Lanka after July, 1988;

(b) if so, whether Government of India propose to take all necessary steps before July for withdrawal of IPKF from Sri Lanka; and

(c) the manner in which interests of Tamil population are likely to be secured by the vascillation displayed by the Sri Lankan Government with regard to the Peace Keeping Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government is aware of statements made by Sri Lanka Minister Mr. Athulathmudali regarding the withdrawal of the IPKF.

(b) and (c) The IPKF is in Sri Lanka at the request of the Sri Lankan Government on the specific mission of implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and assuring the security and safety of all communities in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The duration of the IPKF's stay in Sri Lanka should be seen in this perspective. Both Governments are in touch with each other concerning this question.